INTRODUCTION

“The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ joy is constantly born anew...I wish to encourage the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelization marked by this joy, while pointing out new paths for the church’s journey in years to come.”

(Pope Francis, Evangelii Guadium Para.1)

Making Missionary Disciples is simply a summary of a few key insights and approaches we have taken.

The Priority: Forming Missionary Disciples

While programs are vitally important, our work has confirmed that people are everything. Everything begins to change when a culture of missionary disciples is established.

“In the end, evangelization means to set out with Christ in order to pass on the gift we have received, to transform poverty of every kind.

So, if culture is the key, how do you change the culture?
A good start built on a clear vision will make all the difference. Begin with the end in mind so we can better see where it is we want to go.

Faithfulness and Fruitfulness

We were always willing to accept less fruit, because every soul is worth the effort – but with all things being equal, we would prefer to bear more fruit rather than less.

“By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be my disciples. (Jn 15:8)

Evangelizing and disciple-making are much like farming: Ultimately, God controls the harvest, but there are principles and activities which good farmers utilize and which lesser farmers do not.

Through this lens, were there any patterns of success, and if so, why did those patterns exist? What were the various inputs (the things we were doing) that led to the outcomes (changed lives) for which we were praying and working so hard? How can we learn from those patterns?
Understanding of the key habits that helped them be more effective in evangelization and the approaches they took that had the biggest impact for raising up missionary disciples.

First half of this book three foundational habits that stand out in fostering effective evangelization. Those habits are centered on a missionary disciple’s commitment to three things:

- Divine Intimacy
- Authentic Friendship
- Clarity and Conviction about Spiritual Multiplication

Explain each habit and why they are so crucial for evangelizing, transforming lives and building a culture of encounter and witness.

The Second half of this book we will unpack the three-phased approach to evangelization. It is called “Method Modeled by the Master”.

The three phased approach summed up in three words – win, build, send – echoed by Pope Francis – “Encounter”, Accompaniment” and “Spirit-filled Evangelizers.”

“To create a culture of encounter and witness, we must live explicit lives of discipleship. We are called not only to believe in the Gospel but to allow it to take deep root in us in a way that leaves us incapable of silence; we cannot help but to announce the Gospel in word and deed. This missionary outreach is at the heart of discipleship.”

THE THREE HABITS
The work of evangelization flows from who we are in Jesus Christ – from our baptismal vocation and ongoing encounter with the Lord.

Many qualities are needed in doing the work of evangelization (good moral character, generosity, joy, zeal, faithfulness to Church teachings, compassion for souls, to name a few.

Three crucial habits: effective missionary disciples must be committed to Divine Intimacy, to Authentic Friendship and to having Clarity and Conviction about Spiritual Multiplication.

DIVINE INTIMACY  (the first habit)
Evangelization is first and foremost the work of God, and we will be fruitful in the mission of sharing the gospel only to the extent that we ourselves are abiding in deep union with Him.

Pope St. John Paul II: “Communion with Jesus, which gives rise to the communion of Christians among themselves, is an indispensable condition for bearing fruit: ‘Apart from me you can do nothing’ (Jn 15:5)

The significance of Divine Intimacy is emphasized in the very first sentence of the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC)...
“Father… this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”

Jesus chooses to define eternal life in light of *relationship*.

Eternal life is not knowing things *about* God, as important as that is; eternal life is being in relationship *with* the living God.

Jesus spoke Aramaic.

The word Jesus actually used was *yada*. *Yada* means to be in deep, intimate, life-long, life-giving, covenantal love.

God is calling us to know him so intimately that we become family – that we might participate in his divine life and become adopted members of his perfect family: the Blessed Trinity.

Divine Intimacy is knowing Christ Jesus in this biblical sense (*yada*). We are made for an “intimate and vital” union with God (CCC 29). It entails living in a deep, intimate, covenantal friendship with him. Fruitfulness in evangelization begins here.

**God Transforming Us**

Jesus wants us to encounter him: to encounter his infinite love for us, his invitation to surrender our lives to him and trust him completely, his call to change and repent, his gentle mercy and forgiveness, and his healing power that transforms us and makes us more like him.

Through regular, personal encounters with Jesus, we become changed.

When you are living an active Catholic faith, moments of encounter guide, challenge and inspire you to go deeper and live more like Christ.

When we are living in Christ through the sacraments and our lived encounters with him, we begin to take on the properties of God: The gifts and fruits of the Spirit begin to manifest themselves in our lives.

When people who manifest these godly qualities touch other people, they set their hearts on fire.

The seven “gifts” are: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lords.

The nine “fruits” are: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.
How to Grow in Divine Intimacy: Renewing the Encounter
Acts 2:42 tells us of four essential practices that the early disciples devoted themselves:
1. The Apostles’ Teachings
2. Breaking of Bread (the sacraments)
3. Fellowship
4. Prayer

Through formation in the Apostles’ Teachings as passed down through the Church, we form our minds with the revelation of Christ, not allowing ourselves to be conformed to this world but to be transformed by the renewal of our minds. (cf. Rom 12:1-2).

Through the sacraments (“the breaking of bread”), we encounter Jesus most profoundly as we receive his grace.

Though our fellowship with others, we grow in virtue, learning to encounter Christ in our Christian brothers and sisters, in our neighbor, and in the poor.

Through our commitment to daily prayer, we come to know Jesus more as we grow in the interior life.

These four habits are so foundational that they provide the structure of the Catechism.

First, we must encounter Jesus personally. Flowing from these moments of personal encounter with Jesus, these four key practices continually pull us deeper into the fire of God’s love. Living in Divine Intimacy, the missionary disciple depends on God’s initiative for guidance and strength, not their own. Evangelization is ultimately the work of God and takes the initiative to draw souls back to him.

“...it is important always to know that the first word, the true initiative, the true activity comes from God and only by inserting ourselves into the divine initiative, only be begging for this divine initiative, shall we too be able to become – with him and in him – evangelizers...... Pope Benedict XVI

These Particular practices have helped us go deeper: daily mental prayer, frequent participation in the sacraments, Eucharistic adoration, devotion to the Blessed Virgin (particularly through the Rosary), the Divine Mercy Chaplet, spiritual reading, intellectual formation, fellowship with other disciples, service to the poor and a willingness to step beyond our comfort zone so that God an prove his faithfulness over and over.
AUTHENTIC FRIENDSHIP

Authentic Friendship is the 2nd habit we have come to see as essential if we want to bear fruit.

In forming missionary disciples, it is not enough to pass on the Gospel message and the teachings of the Church. That is essential, but we must do more. We must genuinely love the people we are serving, accompanying them in life and personally investing ourselves in them with Authentic Friendship.

One of the key contributing factors in other’s conversions was…they spent time with them outside of Bible study, listened to them, and walked beside them in life….

…when we genuinely love the people we serve, we offer them something not easily found in our modern world: Authentic Friendship.

“An evangelizing community gets involved by word and deed in people’s daily lives; it bridges distances, it is willing to abase itself if necessary, and it embraces human life, touching the suffering flesh of Christ in others. Evangelizers thus take on the ‘smell of the sheep’ and the sheep are willing to hear their voice.” EVANGELII GAUDIUM para.24 Pope Francis

God did not remain in Heaven watching us from a distance. He did not just send commandments, leaders, teachers, and prophets from afar. He did do this, and he did still more. He personally entered our world and became one of us, taking on human flesh in Jesus Christ.

And all throughout his public ministry, Jesus continued to go out to meet the people in their particular circumstances.

He got involved in others’ lives, shared meals, sincerely took an interest in them, and tookd the smell of his sheep.

We call this model for sharing the faith “Incarnational Evangelization”

We must give of ourselves in Authentic Friendship, sincerely loving them for their own sake, whether they respond to the Gospel or not…

The Power of Personal Investment

The personal time invested outside of formal faith formation sessions is often where lives are changed the most—and it is what make formal faith formation sessions themselves more fruitful.

…we reduce the leaders in our faith communities to functions: sponsors, godparents, RCIA teachers, catechists, Bible study leaders, small-group facilitators.
But how much time do we spend with the people we are serving outside those formal meetings and sessions?

While the functions just listed may be essential, reducing discipleship to functionality will limit (or even possibly eliminate) our fruitfulness.

Pope St. John Paul II…Those shared moments outside of formal faith formation sessions contributed to a more profound, lasting impact on those young people than his homilies, classroom lectures, and books ever could have had on their own.

Going for coffee, sharing meals, working out together, volunteering together, serving the poor together, praying together, hanging out, or simply listening.

**CLARITY AND CONVICTION ABOUT SPIRITUAL MULTIPLICATION**

3rd habit is impossible without the 1st two.

Divine Intimacy breathes Christ’s life into us so that it is God’s work and not our own. Authentic Friendship is the setting in which we do the work of evangelization…

Clarity and Conviction about Spiritual Multiplication…clarity is the most effective way to fulfill the Great Commission to make disciples of all nations (Mt 28:19), and conviction that we must prioritize our actions to make time for these relationships.

Spiritual Multiplication is exemplified by Jesus, who invested deeply in a remarkably few disciples and trained them to do the same so that the whole world could be reached with the Gospel.

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations…” (Mt 28:18-19)

How could this small group of disciples possibly reach all the nations?

…the heart of what the disciples were commissioned to do is what Jesus had done: to make disciples—to invest in a few people so as to form them as followers of Jesus and equip them to go out and do the same for others.

**The 2 Timothy 2:2 Principle**

Consider…great missionary apostle St. Paul…But like Jesus, he traveled with a small group of men with whom he deeply shared his life. He formed them as his disciples.

He wrote to Timothy and reminded him of the importance of imparting not just faithfulness, but also fruitfulness:

“…what you have heard from me before many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” (2 Tim. 2:2)

Paul formed Timothy not just to be faithful, but also fruitful and to impart faithfulness and fruitfulness to others.
…in his last letter…to Timothy, he urgently reminds his own disciple to teach his disciples to teach others.

3 Generations of discipleship here in 2 Timothy 2:2

1\textsuperscript{st} Generation
Paul $\rightarrow$ Timothy

2\textsuperscript{nd} Generation
Timothy $\rightarrow$ Timothy’s Disciples

3\textsuperscript{rd} Generation
Timothy’s Disciples $\rightarrow$ Their Disciples

…Paul is so concerned about passing on the vision of missionary discipleship that he specifically reminds Timothy to make sure his own disciples pass on the faith to other…(to) the 3\textsuperscript{rd} generation. When a missionary disciple imparts faith-filled fruitfulness, they foster an ever-growing chain of missionary disciples.

…what are we doing to form them as missionary disciples? We certainly must lead people to fall in love with Jesus. Spiritual Multiplication helps them fall in love with this mission.

To reduce this method to a formula would be a devastating mistake…when we solely examine the process and lose sight of Divine Intimacy and Authentic Friendship, fruitfulness is lost. At the same time, when we live the first 2 habits without the 3\textsuperscript{rd}, we also hinder our ability to bear as much fruit as we could.

You Can Change the World
As a missionary disciple, they play the role of an older brother or sister to a few others—not competing with the spiritual fatherhood of the pastor or other parish leaders, but rather complementing their roles.

As the missionary disciple begins to work with a few friends who are living from a place of encounter, they all agree to do whatever it takes to become saints and help each other become saints.

After some time, the original missionary disciple invites the friends they have been mentoring to go beyond faithfulness and to live fruitfulness by going out and repeating the process.

For the sake of demonstration, I will use the number 3; in our experience the number of people with whom someone works will vary, usually ranging from 3 to 8…

…a single missionary disciple begins working with 3 “younger” disciples who are committed to following Christ and the Church and dedicated to living in Divine Intimacy and Authentic Friendship. The goal at this stage…deepen their encounter
with Christ and, over time, form them in their faith and life so that they too would go out and lead others to Christ.

...this cycle typically takes 6 to 18 months on college campuses, but it can be shorter or longer depending on each individual and their response to the Holy Spirit’s timing.

...number of people reached multiplies through the generations.

1st Generation: 1 → 3
2nd Generation: 3 → 9
3rd Generation: 9 → 27

So far, the visible impact is not too noticeable...However, the lives of these...people along with their families, are beginning to experience dramatic change, and a culture of missionary discipleship is now ready to emerge.

The ever-expanding fruitfulness is not only changing lives, but is also starting to change the wider culture.

...because growth is incremental...even in a large parish, every individual person involved in discipleship is known, loved, and cared for. The large parish is a unified body, filled with healthy cells of deep, authentic friendships, all growing closer to Jesus.

This beautifully illustrates the amazing potential impact 1 person can have in changing the world!

The actual numbers should not distract us...The crucial thing for us is that we love God and the few people he places in our lives—and that we impart faithfulness and fruitfulness.

Those with Clarity and Conviction about Spiritual Multiplication must be committed to the other 2 foundational habits—Divine Intimacy and Authentic Friendship—if they want to be fruitful. There will...be failures along the way, but these failures will likely be the result of a breakdown in 1 of these 3 habits.

We can now take a closer look at this 3-phased approach to raising up missionary disciples. By following Christ’s method of evangelization, along with cultivating the 3 foundational habits just discussed, we will be able to respond to the urgency of the call.
THE METHOD MODELED BY THE MASTER

Raising Up Missionary Disciples Who Change the World

“I sense that the moment has come to commit all of the Church’s energies to a new evangelization and to the mission ad gentes (to the nations). No believer in Christ, no institution of the Church can avoid this supreme duty: to proclaim Christ to all peoples.” (Pope St. John Paul II, Redemptoris Missio sec. 3)

We live in a moment of great opportunity. There has never been a time when there have been more vibrant, engaging, and faithful catechetical resources available in such abundance.

Ex. Augustine Institute, Dynamic Catholic, The St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology, Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN), Word on Fire, Ascension Press, Ignatius Press, etc. Also many programs like Cursillo, Christ Renews His Parish, Alpha

“Periods of renewal in the Church are also intense moments of catechesis.” (CCC 8)

Many parishes, unfortunately, are not capable of fully benefitting from these programs because there is not a critical mass of missionary disciples to utilize the tools effectively, give witness to the gospel, and accompany people through the process of conversion.

If young leaders are not evangelized and cared for, they will be less engaged at every level, which will weaken our Church and society for years to come.

And while much more is needed than simply a faithful priest who loves his priesthood and his people, there is no replacement for him…I can say with conviction that the priest is the single greatest factor in fruitfulness and effectiveness here.

There are plenty of sparks from which to start the fire. Imagine the impact these living witnesses could have on parish life: thousands of men and women who are on fire for the faith and equipped to lead others to an encounter with Christ…

An Army of Missionary Disciples

Our skeletons provide support and a framework for our bodies to function…might there also be some fundamental principle that could provide reliable support and a framework for the renewal of our parishes, which would also allow us some consistency amidst all the amazing diversity?

“…the vital core of the new evangelization must be a clear and unequivocal proclamation of the person of Jesus Christ, that is, the preaching of his name, his teaching, his life, his promises and the Kingdom which he has gained for us by his Paschal Mystery.” (Pope St. John Paul II, Ecclesia in America, sec. 66)
One constant, fundamental principle that applies in all settings of the Church’s mission is Jesus’ model for evangelization. At the heart of Jesus’ public ministry, there were a handful of people with whom Jesus lived.

Jesus lived a life of authentic friendship with a relative few, and he imparted both faithfulness and fruitfulness.

But Jesus not only modeled this method; he commissioned us to follow his example.

Jesus said: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.” (Matthew 28:18-20)

One of the simple interpretive tools we share with the FOCUS missionaries is this: When you see the word “therefore” in the Bible, stop and look back to see what it is “there for.” The word is a connector, and it unites 2 themes. In this case, the 2 themes…“All authority” and “make disciples.”

We might be tempted to think that organizing events, creating programs, and holding meetings could be an acceptable alternative to make disciples. Those endeavors certainly can be at the service of discipleship—but the heart of the Great Commission is forming disciples.

…a closer look at the Method Modeled by the Master,…has 3 key phases…summed up as “win, build, send” or, in the language of Pope Francis, as “Encounter;,” “Accompaniment,” and “Spirit-filled Evangelizers.”

WIN: LEADING SOULS TO ENCOUNTER CHRIST

…1ST step of forming missionary disciples, we lead people to a life-shaping encounter with Jesus Christ.

God wants more for us than merely following the rules. God wants us to live in relationship with him and every other aspect of our faith exists to serve our relationship with the living God.

That is the key question: Am I living in friendship with Jesus Christ? Is he truly the center of my life, or are other things more important?...if Jesus is not Lord of all, he is not Lord at all.

A friend of mine once told that, in his experience, many Catholics live in a “loveless marriage with God.”

Evangelization is all about inviting people into friendship with Jesus Christ, inviting them to entrust their lives to him, welcoming Jesus as the very center and Lord of their lives.
The key to the “win” is facilitating moments of encounter with Christ.

Encounters are those experiences where people leave lasting impressions in our lives.

…an encounter can move us from having no relationship into having a new and amazing relationship. In other cases, encounters strengthen existing relationships.

…our encounters with God form the foundations of our relationship with him.

…the Gospels…can be seen as a series of encounters which are being recounted for our sake…we are reading the memories of the Apostles under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

The various encounters they had with Jesus formed their friendship with him and transformed their lives.

Our ability to encounter the risen Jesus today—through the teachings of the apostles, fellowship, the sacraments, and prayer (cf. Acts 2:42)—is what allows us to deepen our friendship with him and transforms our lives as well

Sharing the Gospel: Winning Hearts for Christ

…how do we facilitate encounters with Christ that lead to conversion?
...1st…it is through our witness, Pope Paul VI said:
   “Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses.” (Evangelii Nuntiandi #41).

The witness of an authentic Christian life attracts others. Especially in a lonely, self-centered secular world, the joy of the Christian life stands out…the joy and love our missionaries exhibited is what initially drew them to consider the Catholic faith: “They have something I want, but don’t have.”

2nd, we must share with people not only the gospel but our very selves (cf. 1 Thes. 2:8)…we must invest ourselves personally in the people we serve, entering their world, accompanying the outside of formal faith formation settings, and taking on the smell of the sheep. We must win the right to be heard and always love the people we serve unconditionally, regardless of whether they become committed Catholics.

3rd, as much as witness, example, hospitality, and personal investment are crucial means of evangelization, the Church teaches it is not enough. As Pope Paul VI said:
   “Nevertheless, (witness) always remains insufficient because even the finest witness will prove ineffective in the long run if it is not explained, justified…and made explicit by a clear and unequivocal proclamation of the Lord Jesus.” (Evangelii Nuntiandi #22)

We must share the gospel message and invite people to surrender their lives to Christ, putting Jesus first.
Sharing the Gospel: The Message

To be effective in sharing the good news, we need to communicate the heart of the gospel: simply put, the fact that God loves us and has a plan for our lives…

He wants to bestow his mercy upon us and offer us a much better life than what we experience without him.

…summing up the proclamation of the gospel…sharing the good news, the bad news, and the even better news and to invite people to join the adventure.

**The good news:** You were created to be amazing! As St. Catherine of Siena put it, “If you are what you were meant to be, you would set the world on fire.”

**The bad news:** You are not who you were meant to be. Sin has wounded you and separated you from God.

  The fall was universal

  The fall was severe

  **The fall created a chasm so great** that no human could bridge it even with the best of efforts.

**The even better news:**

  The life, death and resurrection of Jesus is God’s only remedy for our sin (cf. Acts 4:12).

  Picture of Jesus dying on the Cross is the bridge over the gap between Humanity and God

  Jesus lived, died, and rose from the dead for you so that you can become who you were meant to be.

  …2 fundamental truths come to light.

    1. If that is what it took to save us, we must have been in pretty bad shape.
    2. If that is what it took to save us, Jesus must think we are worth the effort.

  God’s gift is a complete gift of himself to you and for you; the only appropriate response is a complete gift of ourselves in return.

  Following Jesus means to begin seeking to “love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might” (Deuteronomy 6:5).
BUILD: ACCOMPANYING DISCIPLES

Once someone has surrendered their life to the Lordship of Jesus, it is critical to build them up in their faith, and friendship is the context in which that takes place most effectively, Saints come in clusters.

...good morals, godly company facilitates godliness. Sound teaching is imperative, but it is not sufficient.

In the Method Modeled by the Master, Jesus shares his life with his disciples...the investment he made in the Blessed Virgin Mary (and St. Joseph) is breathtaking...his home life was the nearest thing to the Garden of Eden since the Fall. Jesus was God, Mary was sinless, and Joseph was a just man...

In both his hidden life and public ministry, Jesus models an awe-inspiring commitment to personal relationships...

"How much time does discipleship take?" we respond, “All of it.”...

“So being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.” (1 Thessalonians 2:8)

...demonstration is much more effective than explanation.

As we seek to live as missionary disciples, we learn from one another, we motivate one another, we forgive one another, and we love one another.

For friendship to become discipleship, there must be an explicit choice to place Christ at the center of the human relationships and to make the common pursuit of holiness the primary aim of the friendship.

...in the midst of relationships with others...2 fundamental questions:
1. What do I need to learn so that I can think with the mind of Christ, and
2. How do I need to be formed to live with the character of Christ?

...to truly love individuals deeply, the number must be limited. Jesus was God, and he chose only 12 men—and even then, he spent some key moments with just Peter, James and John.

Within a life of accompaniment, we learn to live lives open to the workings of the Holy Spirit, and as we entrust ourselves to the Holy Spirit, we can be sent out to become Spirit-filled evangelists and multipliers.
How to Build

…3 things we do at this “build” stage…for preparing someone for the work of evangelization.

1st, we help the person live more deeply, day to day, as a true disciple of Christ.

What the person has initially begun to embrace at the “win” stage should now become a habit in “build.”

4 practices of the earliest disciples in Acts 2:42 should become their own.

1. We feed their minds through discipleship, reading, retreats, and other faith formation opportunities so that they will…be transformed by Christ and the teaching of the Apostles.
2. We urge them to frequent the sacraments participating in daily Mass when they can, in regular confession (once a month), in visits to the Blessed Sacrament, and in Eucharistic adoration.
3. We encourage them to grow in virtue and friendship so that they might be strengthened in Christian fellowship.
4. And as they are taking time for prayer (20-30 minutes a day), we help deepen their practice and understanding of prayer and their cultivating an interior life.

2nd, we must train disciples on how to evangelize and model it for them ourselves.

….not enough just to talk about these things. We must also show them how to do it through our example…St. Paul said, “Be imitators of me as I am of Christ.” (1 Corinthians 11:1).

When people observe the way we evangelize, some of that begins to rub off on them.

What are some ways to do this?
- Invite a disciple to come with you when you go to the chapel to pray for the people you are serving.
- Ask the disciple to come with you when you go do outreach in your neighborhood, visit the sick, or hang out with some of the people in your Bible sturdy.
- Have your disciple attend a small group you lead or a faith formation class you teach.
- Remember, “more is caught than taught.”

3rd, give the disciple incremental opportunities to practice leadership:
- …give them a role to play
- After watching how you lead a small group session one week, they might be able to lead a part of that small group the following week.
- Think of ways to give your disciple small experiences in evangelization and leadership before they launch out on their own. This can help boost their confidence.
-It also gives you the chance to offer some constructive feedback on what they did well and how they can improve.

SEND: LAUNCHING SPIRIT-FILLED EVANGELISTS AND MULTIPLIERS

After the Great Commission, the disciples were huddles in the Upper Room with Mary, until Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to them on Pentecost.

With the Holy Spirit, they were able to go out boldly, apply their training, and share the good news with the world. They moved from being just disciples to disciple makers.

As people begin to invest in others, those who do the investing come even more alive.

…gathering disciples for faith formation is not enough. Are we sending disciples on mission?

…Jesus did not just form his disciples: He commissioned them to go out and “make disciples for all nations” (Matthew 28:19).

Similarly, St. Paul did not just pass on good Christian teaching and practices to his disciples: He sent them to go out and find other trustworthy people to train them to do the same for others (2 Timothy 2:2)…he trained his disciples to become disciple makers.

2 Timothy 2:1-2 “1 So you, my child, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 And what you heard from me through many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will have the ability to teach others as well.”

How long does it take to move from being a newly evangelized or re-evangelized Christian living in a place of Encounter into living in Accompaniment and then becoming a Spirit-filled Evangelizer? It varies.

The decision to become a disciple maker is a deepening of unity with Christ, not only to be willing to do anything to embrace Christ but the willingness to do anything so that others may embrace Christ.

…average amount of time for this deeper conversion…6-18 months. The timeframe can be shortened when we meet someone who has already encountered Jesus and who only needs a little help figuring out how to follow him. If they are ready to serve, they can begin to love, care for, and lead others more quickly because our work with them does not end when they begin to care for others.

The Impact

…in FOCUS we use the terms “win, build, send” to represent Encounter, Accompaniment, and Spirit-Filled Evangelizers.
It is critical to note that winning and building do not end when someone has been sent to win, build, and send others. It takes years to mature in Christ, and in reality, we never stop.

…FOCUS missionaries…have practiced “win, build, send”—helping people to encounter Jesus, accompanying them by investing in a few and sharing not only the gospel of God but their very selves, and sending them out to become Spirit-filled evangelists and multipliers.

I trust that, if you read this far, you have a desire to see your parish, your apostolate, or your family radiate a culture of missionary discipleship. We have looked at 3 habits that ensure our efforts will bear fruit and a 3-phased Method Modeled by the Master, which offer a pathway for transforming the culture and even the world.

We have materials written, audio, and video formats available at no cost…available to you here: www.focus.org www.focusoncampus.org/resources